

March 2014



PARENTS
PERSPECTIVES

Holy Cross Governors Questionnaire – feedback

Holy Cross School: A Catholic Voluntary Academy, Whitwick



Dear Parents

We are pleased to inform you of the results of the Governors' questionnaire; you may remember forms were handed out at the parents evening held in the Autumn term 2013 and 4+ parents had forms sent home. We thank you all for your time and consideration as we really value your thoughts and comments. We apologise for the delay in getting this analysis back to you, we wanted to ensure you had enough time to make your considerations, and for us to speak with Mrs Minford on how we can address some of the issues that were raised. Paper copies were available in each class at the parents evening on 3rd April 2014. If you would like a paper copy or for the information to be presented in an alternative format / language then please contact the school office.

Our school has undergone major changes in the last couple of years with our conversion to an academy and the appointment of a new Head Teacher. We are pleased to see that despite these changes; of the families who replied 100% feel that they are happy with their child's experience at Holy Cross, that their child is safe and are encouraged to be independent. There appeared to be themes within the written comments around areas for improvement in communication, after school activities / sports, music, school dinners/hot meals and consultation with parents/children. We should celebrate the many areas highlighted within the report where there is a high level of satisfaction, and are grateful for the additional comments that were provided. These include the Catholic ethos, our school's values and the sense of faith, caring, happiness and family. The positive comments are very helpful in confirming what is valued by our families. The critical comments are equally helpful as they highlight areas that need improvement. All the comments received are included, without editing.

In a response and to address some of these comments we have met with Mrs Minford to establish which areas can be addressed. Mrs Minford has commented on this through the "our News" newsletter dated 24th Jan 2014. Mrs Minford is keen to continue to gather families and pupils thoughts on how our school is run on a day to day basis.

Whilst the Governors form an important part of the strategic management of the school, many parents are not aware of the work that is being done by the Governing Body and who we are. When the Parent Questionnaire was handed out along with this was a Governor profile and letter highlighting the role of the Governors within Holy Cross. This information is now also under the Governor section on the new school website www.holycrosswhitwick.co.uk. We hope this has been a good introduction into how the Governors support the school and who we actually are. We are mindful of the need to engage with parents and we will look at how to report to families on an annual basis.

Thank you again for your help with the questionnaire, it helps the Governing Body and Mrs Minford find out what is working well for our pupils, what is important to you and what areas you feel need more consideration. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Minford, the school leadership team and all the staff who work so hard on a daily basis to provide a happy and stimulating environment for all the children at Holy Cross so that they each may achieve their very best.

With God's Blessing - **Holy Cross Governing Body 2013 -14**



RESULTS

Thank you to all parents who completed the questionnaire. We had a total of 29 responses (21.5 % of families).

| | Strongly agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | No answer | Total agree | Total disagree | Percentage agree | Percentage disagree | Percentage no answer |
|---|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| My child is happy at Holy Cross | 15 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 28 | 0 | 97% | 0% | 3% |
| Holy Cross Keeps my child safe | 19 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 0 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| Holy Cross informs me about my child's progress | 10 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 28 | 2 | 90% | 7% | 3% |
| The teaching is good at Holy Cross | 14 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 0 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| My child is making enough progress at Holy Cross | 11 | 16 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 1 | 94% | 3% | 3% |
| Holy Cross helps me to support my child's learning | 12 | 15 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 2 | 93% | 7% | 0% |
| I am kept well informed about what my child is learning in school | 6 | 17 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 6 | 79% | 21% | 0% |
| Holy Cross meets my child's particular needs | 11 | 15 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 3 | 90% | 10% | 0% |
| Holy Cross makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future | 10 | 16 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 26 | 1 | 90% | 3% | 7% |
| Staff encourage my child to me independent | 14 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 0 | 100% | 0% | 0% |



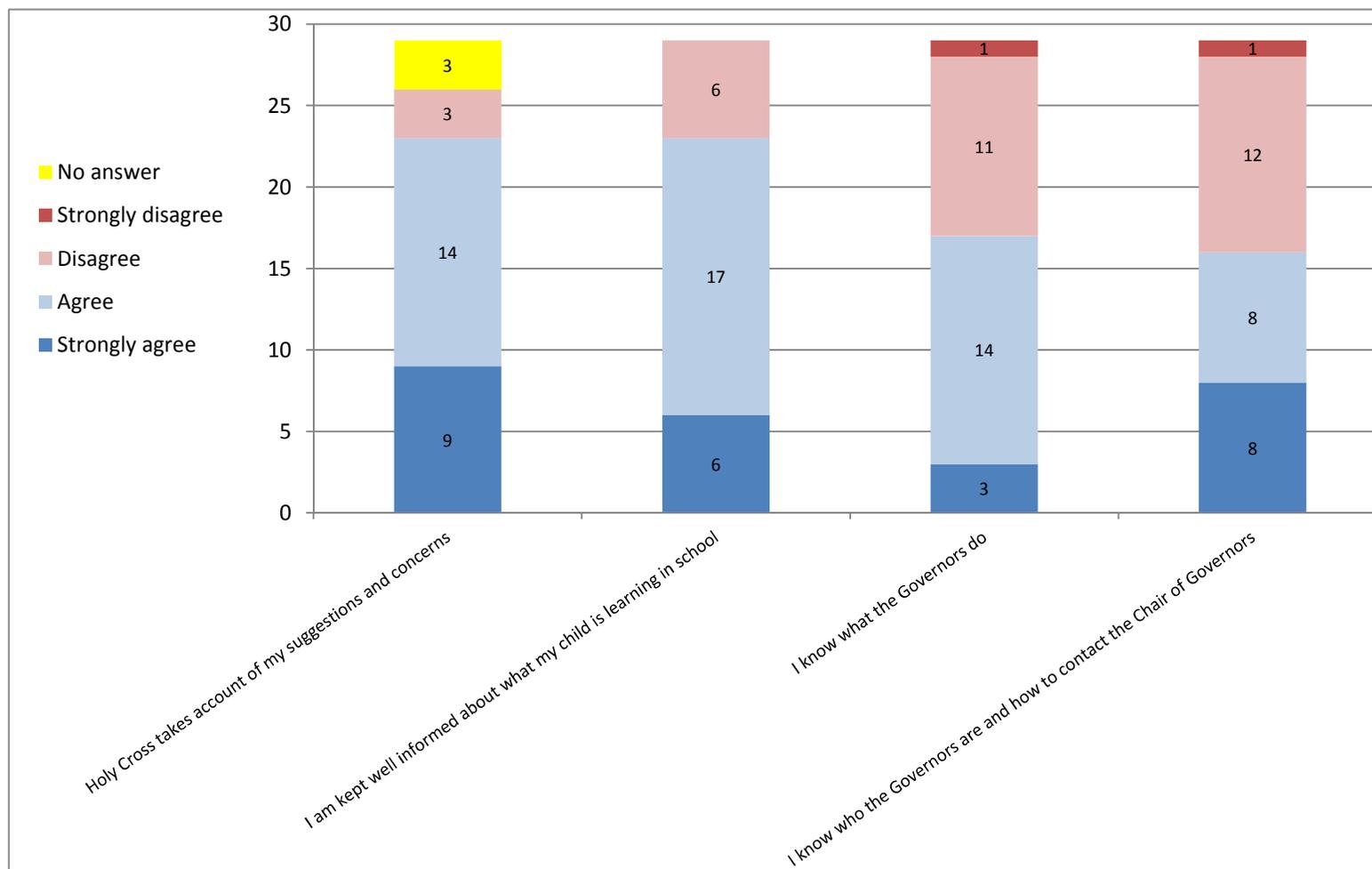
Results continued.....

| | Strongly agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | No answer | Total agree | Total disagree | Percentage agree | Percentage disagree | Percentage no answer |
|---|----------------|-------|----------|-------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Holy Cross helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle | 10 | 18 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 1 | 97% | 3% | 0% |
| I am confident that Holy Cross deals with inappropriate behaviour effectively | 10 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 26 | 2 | 90% | 7% | 3% |
| Holy Cross takes account of my suggestions and concerns | 9 | 14 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 23 | 3 | 80% | 10% | 10% |
| Holy Cross is led and managed effectively | 13 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 25 | 1 | 87% | 3% | 10% |
| Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at Holy Cross | 15 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 0 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| I know who the governors are and how to contact the chair of governors | 8 | 8 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 13 | 55% | 45% | 0% |
| I know what the governors do | 3 | 14 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 17 | 12 | 59% | 41% | 0% |



AREAS OF CONCERN:

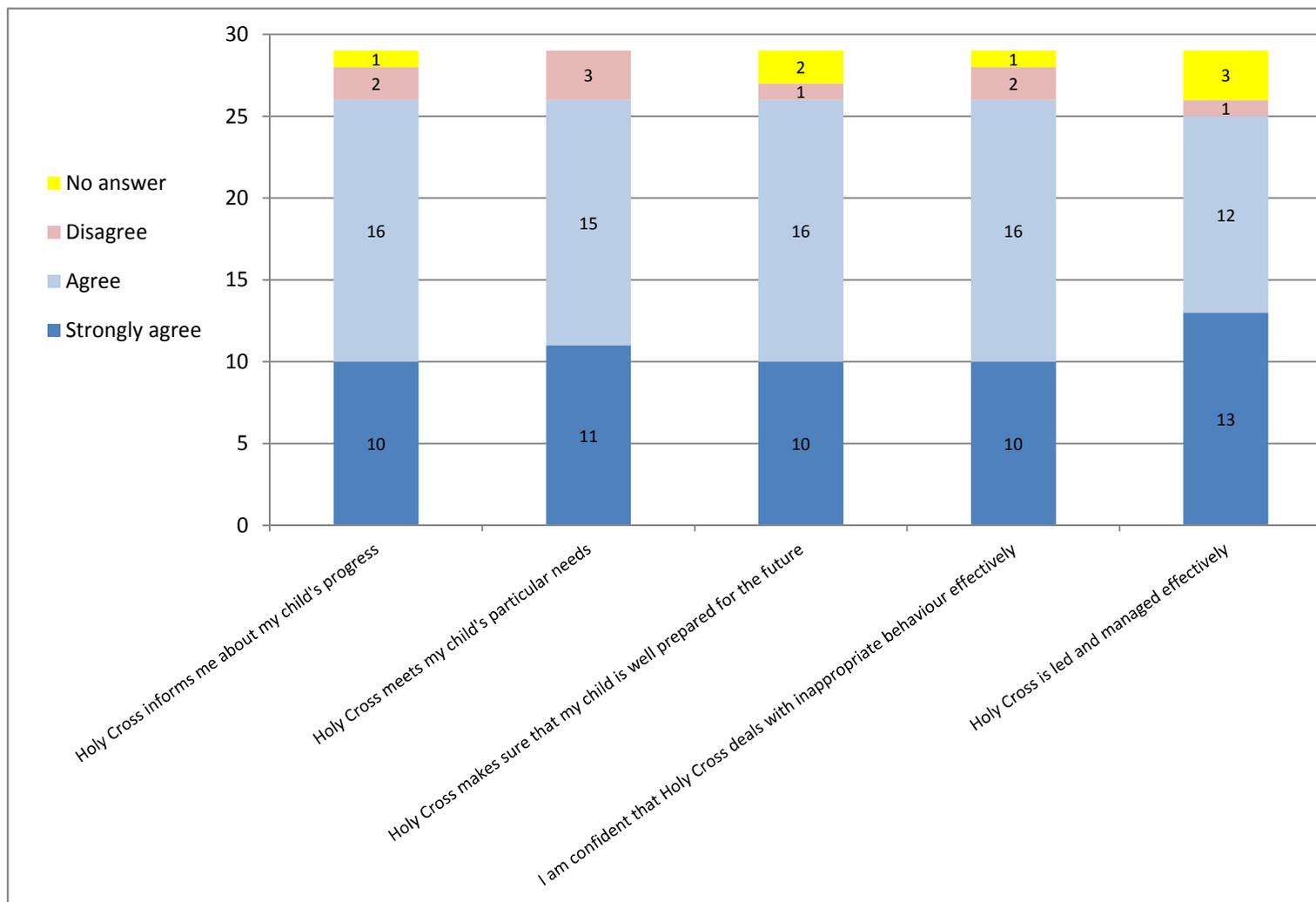
The scoring in this section shows that the areas of most concern centre on communication. Although the majority of parents appear to know who the governors are and what they do, these two questions show the lowest scores in the whole survey – it is clear that there needs to be more effective communication with parents to ensuring they understand the role of governors.





SOME ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT:

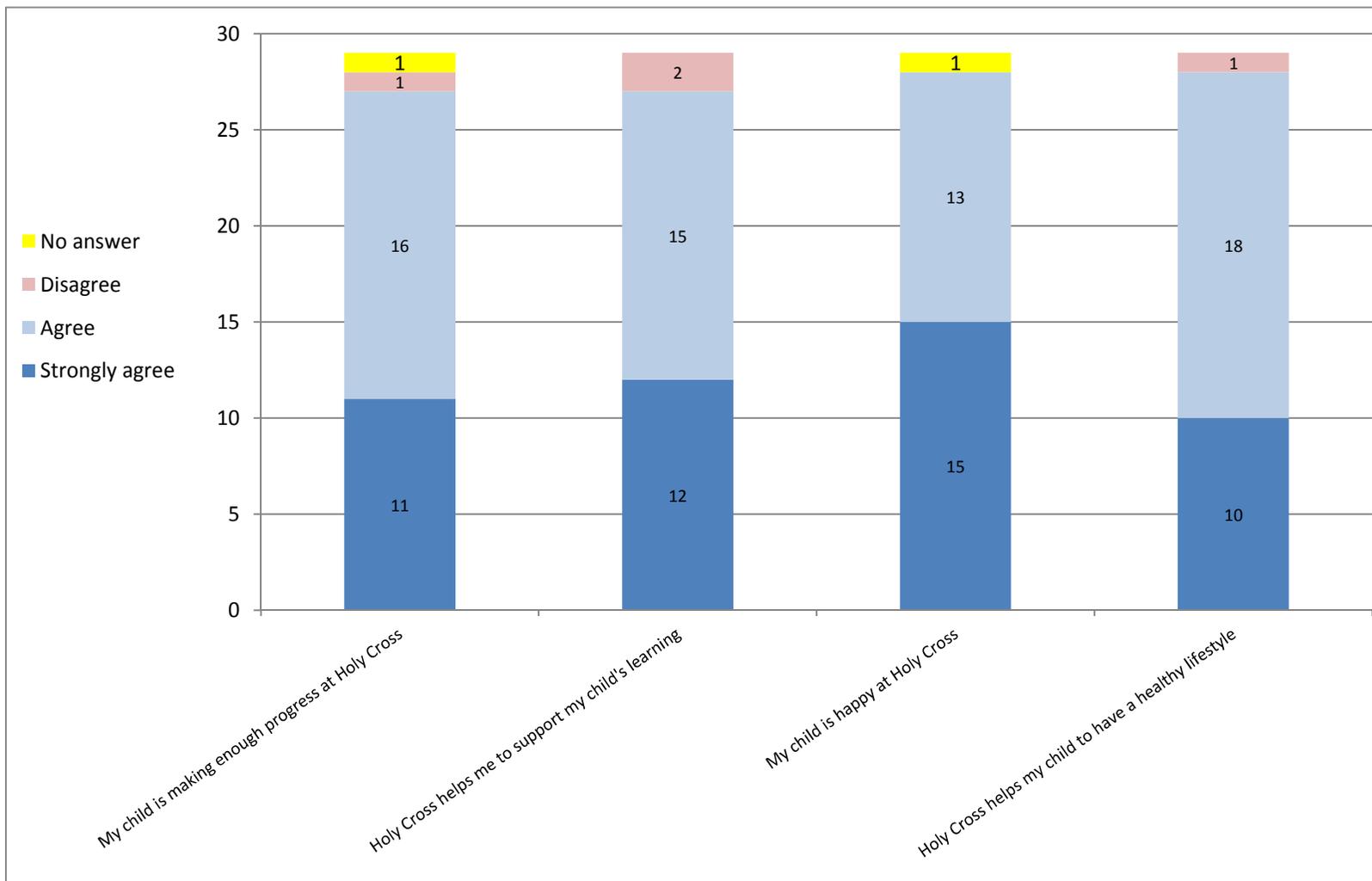
The scores for this section are overall still very good and encouraging, with the vast majority being satisfied, but results show that there are some concerns from some parents. Any underperforming areas that need to be addressed will be, and communicated accordingly.





SATISFIED PARENTS

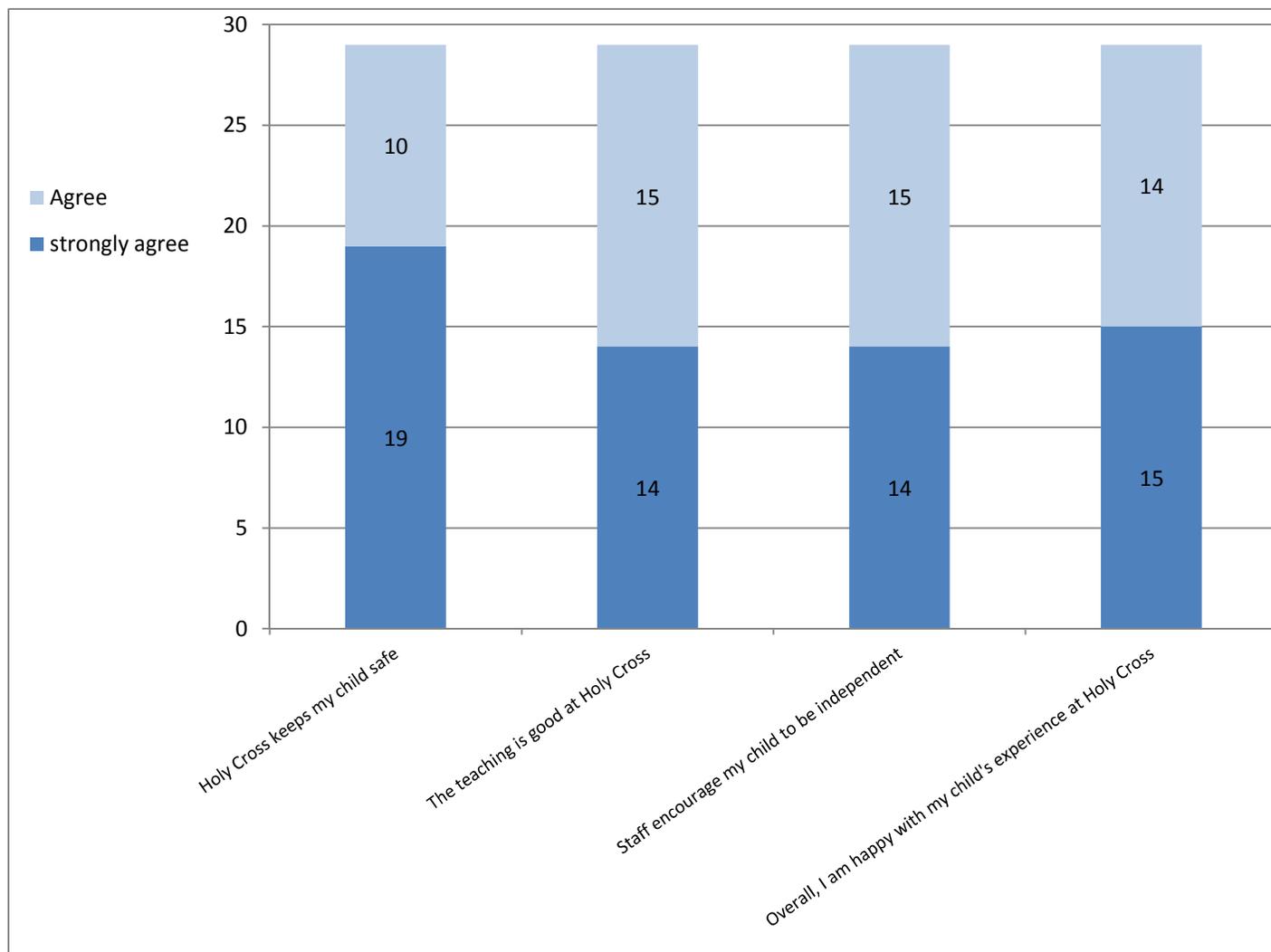
In a number of areas, we see scores with over 90% satisfaction. Worth noting here in particular is that the third question on the graph below relating to the child being happy at Holy Cross has no “disagree” responses – one questionnaire was returned with this unanswered otherwise it would have appeared on the next page.





TOP MARKS!

Overall, most are happy with Holy Cross and when asked general questions relating to their attitude towards the school, all are satisfied – with the quality of teaching standing out as a particular strength.





OTHER COMMENTS

The survey forms contained many individual comments. The positive comments are very helpful in communicating what parents' value. Other comments are equally helpful as they highlight areas which need further investigation.

When asked about which aspects of the school they would most like to change, the following views were expressed:

- Induction to 4+ could be improved
- Difficult to discuss concerns when collecting children due to the way we collect
- More electronic communication
- More varied after school activities for each year
- More sports
- Needs to be consistent
- Comments need to be made in books regarding child's progress
- Topical outings to museums etc. to encourage learning
- Nothing obvious
- More Educational trips for students
- Increased after school sports activities / more variety
- Dinners – my daughter was given gravy on her salad last week and has come home on many occasions saying the dinner wasn't nice at all
- I wish music was more important (i.e. teach instruments to the children)
- I wish there were more trips (hardly any last year)
- There is no "gifted and talented" program which I believe would benefit my children in maths. Friend's children's go on special days to Ivanhoe etc. push them farther but when I ask I'm told that school don't provide it. My sister is an ex-teacher and a governor elsewhere and says it is a legal requirement.
- I do believe the school is overall good and thank you for all you do.
- After school club / care should be provided
- School lunch menu
- Accommodate working parents more (after school club mon-fri)
- Better communication between parents and school
- Parents encouraged to link up and involve church more
- Consult parents/children – Don't tell
- More outdoor equipment
- A music program introduced for all children.
- Interactive learning, even if it is building models with boxes and glue.
- Letting more children be involved in school productions, other than the "same ones" every time.
- Halloween Disco. We feel this is in-appropriate for a Christian school.
- An event to avoid children "trick or treating" is a good idea, but it should not be themed as Halloween.
- We would like to see more topic related school trips/visits off school.
- Decision to close at lunchtime at end of each term. This was brought in without any consultation and causes difficulty for working parents who rely on wrap-round care on these days.
- Breakfast club – an earlier start and ability to assure a place throughout whole year would be useful.
- The venue for shows, often children cannot be heard or seen
- A more up to date and interactive website
- Sports Day should be optional
- Less emphasis on religion
- Allowing a reduction in the amount of homework



When asked about what the most cherished aspects of the school are, the following views were expressed:

- Catholic ethos was mentioned twice.
- Links to the church and community
- School values
- Faith is strong
- Moral kindness
- Religious Education
- Christian education – faith integrated throughout life at school
- Caring atmosphere was mentioned twice
- Good manners
- Family ethos, seeing child as part of a family and involving family/younger siblings
- Safety
- Friendly
- Relationships
- Familiar environment
- Sense of family
- Family feeling within the school was mentioned twice.
- Community feel was mentioned twice.
- They encourage children of all years to get on
- Encourages and promotes confidence i.e. – using microphone in plays
- The small school atmosphere was mentioned three times
- The learning experience
- Good discipline
- Head Teacher is great
- Learning
- Good Education was mentioned twice
- Inclusion
- Opportunities children get
- Caring about each child's individual needs, but making sure each child is involved not matter what difficulties each individual has.
- I feel they are well supported according to need/ability
- Being able to approach teachers when required and being happy with outcome
- The way my child is taught to a good level
- My child's happiness
- The fact that my child is happy, content, looked after and learning is all that matters
- Reputation
- Smart Uniform
- Uniform policy
- Problems are dealt with quickly
- Carols by Candlelight
- That my children are happy in school
- Knowing when I drop --- off she is happy and comfortable with her school life
- Watching my child grow from a reserved 4 year old into a happy, confident year 7, Holy Cross did her proud.



Further comments:

- Concern for pupils who move up to another school other than De Lisle!! Is there preparation for them too!!
- If child is on an IEP you should have time with teacher then parents evening, this did happen in Year 4.
- More learning support staff, one per class.
- I think the way children are selected for after school clubs are wrong. They should give others a chance of doing them so not put ones in that were in the last term.
- Menu currently with minimal nutritional value, i.e. sausage roll and cake, pizza and cake. Encouraging a 4 year old child to be independent is good but guidance is required when it come to lunch options in particular.
- Breakfast club is very helpful. Not aware of any after school clubs for 4 and 5 year olds (sports, singing, music, dancing, IT etc.)
- The recent end of day procedures was handled appallingly. Such a big change should have been consulted with the parents and when announce been more informative/factual. Caused bad feelings (facebook evidenced this) and I was not keen. However, once correct communication explained the “plan” I have embraced the change – upset could have been avoided.
- Sorry more...I also have an issue with Headlice. My child has already had them TWICE this term, I shampoo, tea tree condition, use a “nitty gritter” comb, spray with repellent, tie hair back and still the blighters are back. It was an issue last year too. I advised once and a “standard” letter came out which I feel should be revised and explain the relevant class effected, 2nd time not even a letter. I know other parents who are having similar issues. It’s expensive!!!! Can the nit nurse be brought back? Regards.
- The family ethos is what attracted us to the school when we first looked round in 2010 we were welcomed as a family. During the first year, parents and younger siblings were invited to “world book day” event and to school photos. We were so impressed that the school provided a supervised “crèche” for parents evening, with no local extended family this was such a help. We are concerned that some of the focus on the child as a family member is being lost. Obviously the child’s education must be the primary focus. However decisions such as those to close for half days prior to holidays and not to provide crèche for parents evening seem to show that the impact of changes on the child’s wider family is not being fully thought through.
- I am very proud to say my children have been / and are, children of Holy Cross. Keep up the good work!